

Appl. No.: 09/897,757

March 26, 2004

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312Page 7REMARKS

New claim 24 has been added as a dependent claim to provide further coverage of applicants' invention. Support for the new claim can be found in Examples 3 and 4 on pages 29-31. Particularly, stages comparable to A and C in comparison Example 3 are operated at 2.0 MPa. This same pressure is used in Example 4, which is relevant to the claimed invention.

It is urged that the proposed amendments, submitted after the Notice of Allowance, be entered. The amendment is made to supply a dependent claim giving Applicants the further coverage of their invention to which they are entitled. The proposed amendment does not require any additional search or examination by the PTO. Only a cursory review of the record is necessary for entering the amendment. The new claim is clearly patentable because it is wholly within the scope of the claims already allowed. This amendment was not earlier presented because applicants only recently appreciated such dependent claim coverage.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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